

Appl. No.: 10/531,836
Amdt. dated December 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 19, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

1.-59. (cancelled)

60. (currently amended) A test stand for motor vehicles comprising

a mounting frame ~~which defines a predetermined fixed point,~~
a roller assembly mounted to the mounting frame so as to permit at least slight movement in each of at least two degrees of freedom, with said roller assembly comprising a rotatable contact surface positioned to support a rolling wheel of a motor vehicle, and a drive for rotatably driving the contact surface, and

sensor means for measuring, in at least one of the degrees of freedom, the force that is operative between the roller assembly and a predetermined the fixed point, and/or the displacement occurring during the driving and braking movements of the motor vehicle, and/or the angle of rotation between the roller assembly and the fixed point, and

wherein the roller assembly comprises at least two parallel rollers, with an endless belt extending about the peripheries of the two rollers and defining the rotatable contact surface.

61. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 60, wherein the drive is configured to permit it to be blocked, and/or braked, and/or released.

62. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 60, wherein the mounting frame defines a horizontal travel direction

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along which a vehicle to be tested is adapted to move.

63. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 62, wherein one of the at least two degrees of freedom corresponds to a movement transverse or vertical to the travel direction.

64. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 62, wherein one of the at least two degrees of freedom corresponds to the travel direction.

65. (cancelled)

66. (currently amended) The test stand of Claim 62, wherein the mounting frame is rotatable about a vertical axis, and wherein one of the at least two degrees of freedom corresponds to a rotation of the mounting frame about the vertical axis.

67. (cancelled)

68. (currently amended) The test stand of Claim 60 ~~[[67]]~~, wherein the roller assembly comprises three or more parallel rollers ~~or cylinders~~.

69. (currently amended) The test stand of Claim 60 ~~[[67]]~~, wherein the mounting frame is mounted within a floor opening so that the rollers or cylinders extend above the level of the floor.

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70. (currently amended) The test stand of Claim 60 [[67]], wherein the roller assembly further comprises a slide plate, or an arrangement of rollers, mounted to the mounting frame so as to underlie and support the upper surface of the endless belt.

71. (currently amended) The test stand of Claim 70, wherein the at least two parallel rollers ~~or cylinders~~, and/or the slide plate or the arrangement of rollers, includes a guide means for absorbing lateral forces imparted to the endless belt during operation of the test stand.

72. (currently amended) The test stand of Claim 60 [[70]], wherein the test stand is in the form of an independent functional module.

73. (presently presented) The test stand of Claim 60 further comprising a freely rotatable support roller mounted to the mounting frame so as to be positioned behind and/or in front of the wheel of the vehicle being tested and so as to engage the wheel during testing thereof.

74. (presently presented) The test stand of Claim 73 wherein each support roller is mounted for movement between a raised operative position and a lowered position which permits the wheel of the vehicle being tested to travel over the support roller.

75. (currently amended) The test stand of Claim 60

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[[67]], wherein the sensor means is interposed between the rollers ~~or cylinders~~ and the mounting frame.

76. (currently amended) The test stand of Claim 75, wherein the drive comprises an electric motor which is operatively connected to one of the rollers ~~or cylinders~~.

77. (currently amended) The test stand of Claim 60 [[67]], wherein the roller assembly further comprises a tensioning device for tensioning the endless belt.

78. (new) A test stand for motor vehicles comprising a mounting frame,
a roller assembly mounted to the mounting frame so as to permit at least slight movement in each of at least two degrees of freedom, with said roller assembly comprising at least two parallel rollers with an endless belt extending about the peripheries of the rollers so as to form a rotatable contact surface positioned to support a rolling wheel of a motor vehicle thereupon, and wherein the at least two degrees of freedom include a first degree of movement corresponding to a horizontal direction of travel along which the vehicle is adapted to move and a second degree of movement corresponding to a horizontal direction which is transverse to the direction of travel, and a drive for rotating the rollers and the endless belt, and
sensor means for measuring the force or displacement between the roller assembly and a predetermined fixed point in each of the two degrees of freedom.

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79. (new) The test stand of claim 78, wherein the two parallel rollers are mounted to the mounting frame so that the axes thereof are parallel to the transverse direction.

80. (new) The test stand of claim 79, wherein the roller assembly is mounted to the mounting frame to permit at least slight movement about a third degree of freedom corresponding to the angle of rotation about a vertical axis, and wherein the sensor means is configured for measuring the angle of rotation about said axis.

81. (new) The test stand of claim 79, wherein the at least two parallel rollers include aligned grooves which receive guide elements which form a part of the endless belt, so as to absorb lateral forces imparted to the belt during operation of the test strand.